

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN DALE MAHLUM**, on March 26, 2003
at 3 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Keith Bales, Chairman (R)
Sen. Dale Mahlum, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R)
Sen. Walter McNutt (R)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Sen. Gerald Pease (D)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
Sen. Mike Taylor (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Jennifer Stephens, Committee Secretary
Doug Sternberg, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 445, 2/24/2003
Executive Action: HB 445, HB 676, HB 678

HEARING ON HB 445

Sponsor: REP. JEFF PATTISON, HD 95, GLASGOW

Proponents: Dave Galt, Director, MT Department of
Transportation
Barbara Broberg, Women Involved in Farm Economics
Louie Bauman, Augusta
Troy Blunt, Phillips County

Opponents: None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. JEFF PATTISON, HD 95, GLASGOW, explained that HB 445 is a provisional extension that would change policies concerning Rocky Mountain Doubles. He distributed pictures showing what a Rocky Mountain Double looks like, **EXHIBIT (ags64a01)**. The new policy would change a truck's length limit from 81 feet to 88 feet. He explained the increase in length would allow truck drivers to carry extra bales of hay. He also said the increase in length would make the truck safer. This is true because added hay bales would make the load heavier, giving the driver more control. He provided the committee with pictures to show how the hay bales would be placed on a truck, **EXHIBIT (ags64a02)**. He also passed out a sheet that outlined the current law and proposed law, **EXHIBIT (ags64a03)**.

Proponents' Testimony:

Dave Galt, Director, MT Department of Transportation, said he had no problems with the bill. He agreed with REP. PATTISON that there is rarely any problems with hay trucks carrying too much weight; usually problems with hay trucks have to do with their size. He explained that the bill was crafted in order to take advantage of a loophole in the 1991 statute concerning truck length. He said they were able take advantage of the loophole due to the voidance clause. He said he would go into more detail if the committee wanted him to.

Barbara Broberg, Women Involved in Farm Economics, rose in support of HB 455.

Louie Bauman, Augusta, said at the end of last year he had contacted Mr. Galt in order to speak with him about the possibility of changing the truck length statute. He said for 15 years, he had been driving a cab-over truck. Last fall, he was forced to use a different type of truck because his truck was not

allowed by statute. He felt that his old truck was a lot safer on the road. He would like the bill to be passed so he could use his old truck and carry more hay.

Troy Blunt, Phillips County, rose to support the bill.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. JEFF PATTISON, HD 95, GLASGOW, summarized the bill and closed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 445

Motion/Vote: SEN. BALES moved that HB 445 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 676

Motion: SEN. NELSON moved that HB 676 BE CONCURRED IN.

Motion: SEN. BALES moved that HB 676 BE AMENDED.

Discussion:

Doug Sternberg, Legislative Staffer, explained the amendment and passed out copies to the committee, **EXHIBIT(ags64a04)**.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TROPILA moved that HB 676 BE AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sternberg said he had a technical amendment that would clarify the title of the bill. He passed it out to the committee, **EXHIBIT(ags64a05)**.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TROPILA moved that HB 676 BE AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion/Vote: SEN. BALES moved that HB 676 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: SEN. NELSON moved that HB 678 BE CONCURRED IN.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 678

Motion: SEN. NELSON moved that HB 678 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

SEN. JOE TROPILA asked if someone could summarize the bill since he was not able to attend the hearing. **Sarah Carlson, MT Conservation Districts**, summarized HB 678.

Motion/Vote: SEN. MAHLUM moved that HB 678 BE CONCURRED IN.
Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4 P.M.

SEN. KEITH BALES, Chairman

JENNIFER STEPHENS, Secretary

KB/JS

EXHIBIT (ags64aad)